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Mr. Bruce

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: November 17, 1952

SUBJECT: Dr. Krekeler's return to Germany on consultation.

PARTICIPANTS: The ~~Under~~ Acting Secretary
Dr. Heinz Krekeler, Charge d'Affaires,
Diplomatic Mission of Federal Republic of Germany.
Mr. James W. Riddleberger - GER

COPIES TO: GPA - Mr. Morris
WE - Mr. McBride
S/S

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Dr. Krekeler called at his request upon the ~~Under~~ Acting Secretary this morning and explained that he is leaving for Bonn tomorrow at the request of the Chancellor in order to be on hand prior to and during the Bundestag debates on the contractual agreements and the EDC Treaty which are now scheduled for November 26-28. Dr. Krekeler desired to have an opportunity to talk to the Acting Secretary before his departure and explained that he had been in touch with several senators of both Parties in order to convey to the German Government the sentiments in Congress now that the election is over. Dr. Krekeler said that in general he found no change in the American attitude toward the EDC and the contractual agreements and thought that on the whole both Parties were overwhelmingly in favor of continued efforts to build a united Europe. The Acting Secretary confirmed this opinion and said that he thought the Congressional sentiment in favor of existing and planned arrangements was undisputably unchanged. He thought furthermore that the President-elect was so definitely committed to the theory of European integration that he had no desire to change his attitude either from a personal or from a political viewpoint. He thought, therefore, that under the new Administration American policy towards Europe would remain unchanged.

Dr. Krekeler was grateful for this opinion and then asked about prospects of French ratification. The Acting Secretary believed that French ratification was basically linked to the war in Indo-China and the fear that France would, because of this war, not be able to match the German military strength. He felt that this problem would best be

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dealt with when other European countries had a full realization of the French difficulties which could lead to a European solution. He thought that the important thing was to press forward with German ratification so that one great Continental power had taken the necessary action. He believed that other countries would follow and that in the end France would fall into line because basically the alternatives to the EDC policy were difficult as to be impracticable. The Acting Secretary believed that if the French Parliament should attach certain reservations that the French Government would find it possible to deal with them.

A brief discussion then ensued with respect to the Tunisian question and the Saar, with the Acting Secretary discussing certain possibilities of a solution which would be satisfactory to the French. With reference to the Saar, we were in agreement that this problem need not necessarily prevent a ratification of the agreements.

Dr. Krekeler expressed his firm belief in the integration policies which we are all now attempting to apply. He thought it would be the only way in which Western Europe could arrive at a position where it would not be so dependent on the U. S. for its defense. He, therefore, was returning to Germany highly gratified that there had been no basic change in U. S. policy toward the general problem of European integration.

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